

Letter from Eliza Symonds Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, November 21, 1875, with transcript

Copy of letter from Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell to her son, Alexander Graham Bell, and finished by Prof. Alexander Melville Bell — November 21st, 75 P. O. Box 518 Brantford, Ont., Canada Home, November 21st, 75 (Prof. A. Graham Bell, 292 Essex Street, Salem, Mass. U.S.) My dear Aleck,

As usual I have not much to record beyond the fact of our being all well, both here and in Town. Papa will himself tell you all business items. As I had not seen Carrie for a good while, Mary and I drove up to George's place on Friday then to your Aunt's, spending the Friday evening and night with them. Today Carrie and George dined with us, and have just now left. They will have a bitterly cold drive. Carrie's piano is placed in the dining room, and seems to be a pretty tone. I stupidly forget the name of the maker. We never saw George looking so well. I thought him almost handsome tonight. Two or three days ago I had a very melancholy letter from poor Mrs. Ottaway. Cathcart through his habitual intemperance, has lost his good situation with Mr. Sullivan, and will have to return home in disgrace. Poor Pollie is almost distracted. Cathcart was to have 20 Pounds a week for twelve months. Mr. S. had forgiven him again and again till quite tired out. Cathcart was laid up for three weeks with delirium tremens, and it would not be at all surprising if in one of these fits he should commit suicide. I am wicked enough to think his family would be better without him, for it is to be feared he has gone too far on the road to destruction ever to reform. Carrie told me to say she intended writing to scold you. I rather think the event is expected to come off in the first week in December. I said we are all well, but Mary has a nasty complaint in her ears. There appears to be a gathering inside which discharges, and the discharge forms scabs on the outside of the ear. Only one has been affected hitherto, but now the other also is becoming affected. Aunt Ellen recommends her to bathe it with

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sugar of lead, diluted 2 in water. She looks well but I do not think her particularly strong. Love to Mabel and love from all, including that of,

Your affectionate Mother, E. G. Bell.

Your Father will finish this sheet. My dear Al.,

Your lecture reported in the Boston Globe is evidently the best you have delivered, giving a good idea of the general uses of V. S. Thanks. On Saturday Afternoon I sent by Express a box containing 31 copies of the large V. S. I trust they will arrive safely and in time. Let me know how your class succeeds. Any news from George Brown? Don't forget to send me a copy of your charts. There is a darning machine invented by somebody in Boston. I wish you would see it, and if you think favorably of it, buy one for Mamma and bring it with you when you come at Christmas. The price is \$10.00. The \$6.00 you borrowed can go towards the payment and I will hand you the balance.

No news here. Uncle D. and I read for St. Andrew's Society at Brantford, on the 30th, instant. I am very glad to see that you are at last making your profession your first care. Success to you! With all love to yourself, and a promissory instalment to Mabel, I am

Your affectionate Father, A.M.B.